



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

President Declares National State of Emergency

Earlier today, President Trump declared a national state of emergency. In doing so, this action opens access to \$50 billion for states, localities, and territories dealing with the coronavirus.

He has also mandated that states set up their emergency operation centers and every hospital activate their emergency preparedness plan. In addition, he granted the Secretary of Health and Human Services broad new authority, allowing for maximum flexibility moving forward.

President Trump also emphasized the government's partnership with the private sector, particularly on working to increase testing availability, facilitate the ease of testing, and create a screening website.

This follows the action locally in which Governor DeSantis issued [Executive Order 20-52](#) declaring a state of emergency in Florida on Monday, March 9.

Since Florida announced its first case on Sunday, March 1, there are now currently 42 confirmed cases in 19 counties.

FDEM Hosting Weekly Briefings

The Florida Division of Emergency Management will hold a weekly briefing with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and our members every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) regarding the coronavirus.

Call-in Number: 888-585-9008
Conference Room Number: 488-097-156#

Please send any preliminary questions to eoc-plans@em.myflorida.com.

CDC Releases Mitigation Strategies for Florida

Based on the current situation with COVID-19 and Florida's large older adult population, the CDC has comprised custom recommendations for implementation of mitigation strategies for the state. More [here](#).

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

[FAC COVID-19 Webpage](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)
• [Mitigation Strategies](#)

[Florida Department of Health](#)
• [COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

[Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Tracking Dashboard](#)

LATEST UPDATES

March 13, 2020
[FDOH Issues Update on COVID-19](#)

March 12, 2020
[SBA to Provide Disaster Assistance Loans for Small Businesses Impacted](#)

March 12, 2020
[Governor DeSantis Activates Emergency Business Damage Assessment Survey](#)

March 12, 2020
[Facebook Launches Local Alerts Tool](#)

March 11, 2020
[Homeland Security Secretary's Statement](#)

March 11, 2020
[White House Briefing Call Summary](#)

[Click here](#) to view other updates.

CDC to Award Over \$560 Million to State & Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing another upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide resources to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The \$8.3 billion dollar Supplemental passed by Congress included [statutory language](#) which prescribed the exact formula for disbursing the money: states will receive 90% of their [2019 CDC PHEP grants](#). This marks the first tranche of funding to states from the \$8.3 billion supplemental. Your state health officers are receiving a letter today from CDC outlining what is needed to receive the funding, essentially they need to submit a spend plan and they will receive guidance on what that spend plan should contain. More [here](#).

CDC Releases Mitigation Framework for States, Localities, and Communities

Protect yourself and your community from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like coronavirus disease 2019. Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy. CDC is aggressively responding to the global outbreak of COVID-19 and community spread in the United States. CDC's all of community approach is focused to slow the transmission of COVID-19, reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts. Framework includes: (i) Local Factors to Consider for Determining Mitigation Strategies, (ii) Community mitigation strategies by setting and by level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19, and (iii) Potential mitigation strategies for public health functions. More [here](#).

Public Communication Initiatives

Facebook Launches Local Alerts Tool to Florida Government Pages

Facebook's Local Alerts tool is available to the following Facebook Pages in the State of Florida:

- **At City and County Level:** primary government page, law enforcement and emergency responder pages, and public health agency pages
- **At State Level:** public health agency pages, law enforcement and emergency responder pages

Local Alerts is a free tool that allows local government, public health agency and first responder Pages to broadcast essential updates to people in their community via Facebook by marking a page post as local alert, which sends out a notification to page followers who live in a community. With four out of five internet users actively engaging on Facebook each month in the US, this is a great tool to reach your communities in emergency situations. Learn more [here](#).

2020 Census & Coronavirus

Importance of Mailing Census Form Given COVID-19 Situation

It is extremely important that counties are messaging to their communities the importance of filling out the mail census form that is arriving this week. By doing so, census workers will be less likely to need to go door to door, and risking exposure.

Actions Taken by the State of Florida

- Governor Ron DeSantis issued [Executive Order 20-52](#) declaring a State of Emergency for COVID-19.
- Governor Ron DeSantis directed the Florida Division of Emergency Management to activate to Level II to coordinate the state's response to COVID-19.
- Governor Ron DeSantis issued [Executive Order 20-51](#) directing the State Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency.
- State Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees declared a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 in Florida.
- Established an Incident Management Team to coordinate response operations.
- Activated a dedicated incident command post for on-site response activities.
- Conducted public health and health care stakeholder conference calls to provide statewide updates on the current outbreak situation, response actions and guidance for pandemic planning. Over five hundred participants joined these calls.
- Participated with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on statewide conference calls with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals.
- Established a public call center for questions regarding COVID-19.
- Developed and distributed an updated COVID-19 presentation to CHDs for use at community meetings.

- Implemented protocols for investigation, surveillance and monitoring for COVID-19 to rapidly detect and contain cases.
- Established mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and coordination with the CDC regarding epidemiological activities.
- Distributed CDC Interim Guidance for public health personnel evaluating Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and asymptomatic close contacts of confirmed cases at their home or non-home residential settings to CHDs.
- Distributed the updated Clinician Screening Tool for identifying PUIs for COVID-19 and a health care provider letter regarding Enhanced Surveillance and Preparedness for COVID-19 to associations, licensed providers, Health Care Coalitions and CHDs.
- Implemented testing at all three State Public Health Laboratories.
- Distributed updated CDC guidance for schools to CHDs and the Department of Education.
- Distributed updated Laboratory Guidance regarding implementation of testing at State Public Health Laboratories.
- In an effort to be proactive, and only as a precautionary measure if COVID-19 evolves in Florida, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) has partnered with the Florida Department of Education to offer all school districts student support and teacher professional development tailored to the online learning environment. The Florida Department of Education in partnership with FLVS is training an additional 10,000 teachers statewide on the Virtual Teacher Training for COVID-19. Superintendents who are interested in offering their teachers the Virtual Teacher Training for COVID-19 should work with their County Virtual Principals to provide a list of teachers to FLVS through: <https://www.flvs.net/FLVSTeacherTraining>.
- Governor DeSantis directed the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Agency for Health Care Administration to take action to restrict access to vulnerable populations for those who may have been exposed to COVID-19. The Governor also directed the Florida Department of Corrections to suspend visitation at state prisons for 30 days.

News from the National Association of Counties (NACo)

NACo Collects Input on Counties Responses Nationally to Technology Support

NACo sent out a survey to their member counties regarding their response to technology support when managing with the impact of COVID-19. This includes their telework planning and policies, work alternatives, equipment needs, education and communication strategies, coordination with third party vendors, and the general planning process. To read the responses, please click [here](#).